colonies would get and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) (a) to (c) The Union Government on 8.2.2007 has approved a proposal regarding revision in the guidelines for regularization of unauthorized colonies in Delhi. Accordingly, the process of finalizing the revised guidelines is on. Unauthorized colonies fulfilling the prescribed conditions will be eligible for regularization.

The GNCTD had invited applications from Societies/Associations of unauthorized colonies existing as on 31.3.2002, seeking regularization and received 1432 applications. Further, 107 applications have been received by GNCTD in response to a later advertisement inviting applications. GNCTD has informed that verification on site of these applications has been taken up through different agencies.

Once regularized, as per the provisions of Master Plan, unauthorized regularized colonies will be covered by the Special Area Building Regulations to be framed for special area, unauthorized regularized colonies and village abadis. Owners in special area, unauthorized regularized colonies and village abadi shall register themselves with the local body within a period of four months indicating the existing extent of construction. Thereafter a certificate of structural safety by qualified engineers shall be submitted within the next 6 months subject to height restriction of 15 meters, all buildings covered by such registration shall be exempted from punitive action till Special Area Building Regulations for these areas are notified or maximum three years, whichever is earlier. The concerned local bodies/agencies responsible for civic services will provide civic facilities as per their service plans and over a period of time, those colonies will be integrated into the planned development. In view of the legal and administrative issues involved, no time frame has been fixed at this stage.

Expansion of communication services in U.P.

†*354. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the number of villages connected to communication service by Government under the Telecomunication Expansion scheme; and

(b) the target set for the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) As on 31st March, 2007, 5,61,346 villages in the country including 97, 274 villages in Uttar Pradesh are connected to communication service through Village Public Telephone (VPT) facility.

(b) The target set for the year 2007-08 is given below:

(i) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. As on 31st March, 2007, out of 66,822 unconnected eligible villages, 46,969 villages have been provided with VPT facility and the remaining 19,853 villages will be provided with VPTs progressively by November, 2007. In respect of Uttar Pradesh, all the eligible villages have already been provided VPTs.

(ii) A scheme has been launched by the Government to provide support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructures sites spread over 500 districts across 81 clusters in the country for provision of mobile services including other Wireless Access Services like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) using Fixed/Mobile terminals in the specified rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage.

A total of 666 towers will be set up in specified rural and remote areas of Uttar Pradesh resulting in coverage of 34,767 villages in 66 districts of the State. The shared infrastructure facilities for mobile services is proposed to be set up in all such areas by June, 2008.

Growth in the economy

*355. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: